

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 114998
ORIGIN NODS-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 114998

NODIS
EYES ONLY FOR AMBASSADOR VAKY FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, US, CO

SUBJECT: INSTRUCTIONS TO AMBASSADOR VAKY
REF: BOGOTA 4235 AND 4239

1. WE ARE REPEATING TO YOU SEPARATELY PERTINENT AGREEMENT
MESSAGES OF JOE CABRANES AS AMB. TO COLOMBIA. YOU ALREADY
HAVE BACKGROUND ON THE COLOMBIAN REACTION TO YOUR
SUCCESSOR. WITH THESE MESSAGES YOU HAVE ALL WE KNOW
ABOUT THE COLOMBIAN ATTITUDE TO THE CABRANES NOMINATION.
WE WILL ALSO BE SENDING YOU SEPARATELY BIOGRAPHIC
INFORMATION ON CABRANES.

2. I WOULD LIKE YOU TO TRAVEL AS SOON AS CONVENIENT TO
BOGOTA TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT LOPEZ TO DISCUSS THIS
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NOMINATION. I REALIZE YOUR ARRIVAL IN BOGOTA CANNOT BE
KEPT CONFIDENTIAL. THEREFORE, I HOPE YOU CAN DEVISE
SOME APPROPRIATE EXCUSE FOR THE TRIP AND FOR A CALL ON
PRESIDENT LOPEZ. IN ANY CASE, I WOULD LIKE YOUR VISIT
TO TAKE PLACE BEFORE MRS. CARTER'S VISIT TO BOGOTA.

3. WHEN YOU SEE PRESIDENT LOPEZ, PLEASE CONVEY THE

FOLLOWING ORAL MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER:

-- I HAVE ASKED AMBASSADOR VAKY TO PRESENT TO YOU MY VIEWS ON THE IMPORTANCE I PLACE ON OUR RELATIONS WITH COLOMBIA. I HAVE ASKED HIM TO CONVEY THIS MESSAGE PERSONALLY BECAUSE OF THE HIGH ESTEEM IN WHICH AMBASSADOR VAKY IS HELD BY MY GOVERNMENT AND BY YOURS.

-- FROM THE VERY BEGINNING OF THIS ADMINISTRATION, THE IMPORTANCE TO US OF THE MOST CORDIAL, FRIENDLY AND WARM RELATIONS WITH THE DEMOCRACIES OF THIS HEMISPHERE WAS CENTRAL. THE SHARED TRADITIONS AND VALUES THAT WE HAVE WITH THE FEW AMERICAN DEMOCRACIES MUST BE EMPHASIZED IN OUR WORDS AND IN OUR DEEDS IN ORDER TO KEEP THIS SPIRIT ALIVE AND PROJECT IT IN THE MOST POSITIVE SENSE TO OUR NEIGHBORS.

-- COLOMBIA, HOWEVER, HAS AN EVEN MORE SPECIAL PLACE IN OUR RELATIONS BECAUSE OF THE COOPERATION WHICH YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS SHOWN CONSISTENTLY AND BECAUSE OF ITS LEADERSHIP ROLE IN REGIONAL AND GLOBAL DISCUSSIONS OF IMPORTANCE TO ALL OF US.

-- THE VISIT OF MRS. CARTER TO COLOMBIA I HOPE WILL ADD TO THE IMPACT OF YOUR RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON TO DEMONSTRATE TO OUR PEOPLES THESE STRONG TIES OF FRIENDSHIP.

-- IT IS IN THIS CONTEXT THAT I HAVE ASKED AMBASSADOR
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VAKY TO STRESS TO YOU THE GREAT IMPORTANCE SECRETARY VANCE AND I PLACED ON SELECTING A FIRST-RATE AMBASSADOR TO REPRESENT MY GOVERNMENT IN BOGOTA.

-- BEING FULLY AWARE OF THE HIGH REGARD IN WHICH YOU HELD AMBASSADOR VAKY AND THE IMPORTANCE OF ESTABLISHING A GOOD RAPPORT WITH THE NEW U.S. AMBASSADOR, SECRETARY VANCE PERSONALLY RECOMMENDED TO ME ONE OF THE MOST OUTSTANDING AMERICANS HE HAS MET IN OR OUT OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. THAT PERSON WAS JOSE CABRANES.

-- I SHARE SECRETARY VANCE'S ESTEEM FOR MR. CABRANES. THIS IS WHY I SEEK YOUR AGREEMENT TO ACCEPT HIM AS AMBASSADOR TO COLOMBIA.

4. FOLLOWING YOUR PRESENTATION OF THIS, YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION, COMMENTS ON CABRANES' BACKGROUND AND MY HIGH OPINION AND CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH HIM (WHICH WILL BE PROVIDED SEPTTEL). YOU SHOULD

ALSO STATE THAT WE STRONGLY URGE THAT THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT GIVE CABRANES AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE HIS SKILL, BRILLIANCE AND TACT AND TAKE AN OPEN MIND ON THIS APPOINTMENT CONVEYING MY CONVICTION THAT HE WILL PROVE TO BE AN OUTSTANDING AMBASSADOR.

5. I WOULD LIKE YOUR PERSONAL VIEWS GIVEN YOUR PROFOUND APPRECIATION OF COLOMBIA AND LOPEZ' MIND ON HOW TO FINE TUNE THIS PROCEDURE. IF YOU HAVE ANY THOUGHTS, PLEASE PROVIDE THEM TO ME BY IMMEDIATE CABLE, ACTION DEPARTMENT, INFO USDEL SECRETARY. CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

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